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Talking Points for the DCI
(16 September 1983)

LEBANON: Situation Update

The Lebanese Army is reporting this morning that it has repulsed a major attack on its positions at Suq al Gharb by Palestinian forces belonging to the dissident PLO faction led by Abu Musa.

- The Army reportedly stifled repeated Druze/Palestinian offensives launched last night--the eve of the anniversary of the Sabra/Shatila massacres. []

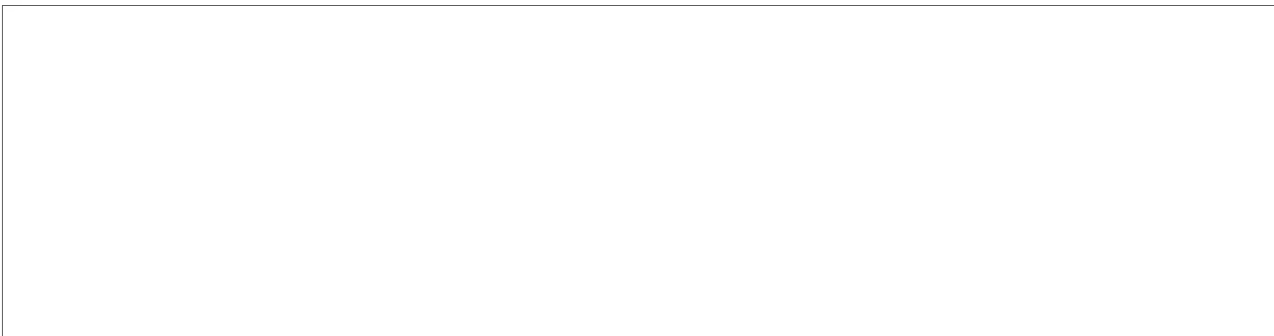
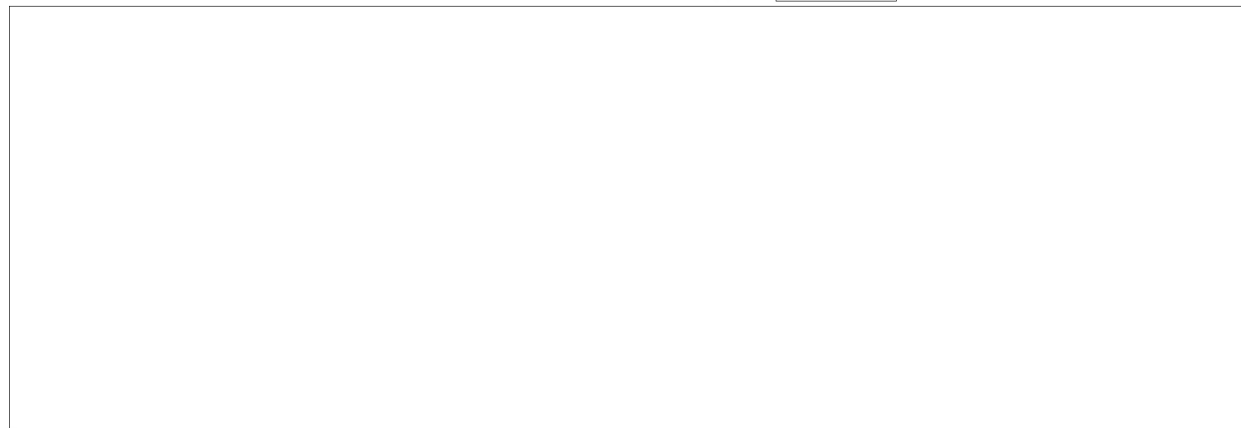
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The Army has launched a counteroffensive aimed at securing the Druze-held towns of Baysur and Aytat. The capture of these towns would consolidate Lebanese Army positions on the Alayh ridgeline and cut off Druze access to Shuwayfat, the Druze-held town south of the airport.

- The Army reportedly will not accept a cease-fire until these towns have been captured. []

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Druze leader Marwan Hammada, an adviser to Walid Junblatt, warned the US Embassy in Damascus that the Lebanese Air Force bombings will disrupt negotiations for a ceasefire. []

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Both the US Embassy and Marine positions at the airport have come under fire this morning, but no casualties are reported. []

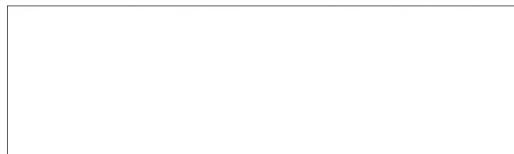
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